removing the prohibitions in investment of surplus funds of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in mutual funds subject to the conditions that (i) Only Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs are permitted to invest in SEBI regulated public sector mutual funds, (ii) Investments in schemes of such mutual funds, having equity investment, should not exceed 30% of the available surplus funds of the concerned CPSE, and (iii) The Board of Directors of these CPSEs would decide the guidelines, procedures and management control systems for investment in such mutual funds in consultation with the Administrative Ministries.

Retrenchment of workers

770. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large scale retrenchment of workers of late because of loss of earnings on account of appreciation of rupee *vis-a-vis* US dollar;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the financial support given to the exporters by Government has no attached condition to protect the employment of the workers; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure that there is no retrenchment of workers on account of fall in income due to dollar depreciation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Export growth continued to be high at 18.5% in April-September, 2007 over corresponding period of previous year on top of high export growths in earlier years despite the appreciation of the Ruppee. There is also no one to one relationship between appreciation and export growth as export growth depends on other factors such as world economic growth, world trade growth, sector specific factors etc., As there was widespread concern on possible lagged adverse impact of rupee appreciation on export growth, Government has announced relief packages to exporters comprising of reduction in Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) premimum, release of Rs. 600 crore for clearing all arrears of terminal excise duties, Central sales tax reimbursement, enhancement of duty drawback rates, enhanced Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) rates for 9 sectors which include labour intensive sectors, reduction in interest rates on pre and post shipment credit for the 9 sectors and to all exporters from the same and medium enterprises sector, etc.

Recovery of fake currency notes in Madhya Pradesh

†771. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake currency to the tune of Rs. 40 lakhs has been recovered in August, 2007 at Dabra city of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of incidents of accepting these currency by the Banks in Dabra city have also come to the notice; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government against the persons giving fake currency to the Banks and the officials of Banks accepting such currency?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per the information received from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), counterfeit notes detected in the chest remittances received from the bank branches during the month of August, 2007 in Madhya Pradesh are as under:

Denomination	10	20	50	100	500	1000	Total
Number of pieces	2	1	18	72	4	0	97
Value in Rupees	20	20	900	7,200	2,000	0	10,140

(b) No such incident has come to the notice of RBI in Dabra city so far.

(c) FIR is lodged by banks and Reserve Bank with the police authorities in respect of counterfeit notes detected by them as per the provisions of Section 489 A to E of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Enhanced capital cost and impact on exchequer

772. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment about the impact on exchequer due to enhanced capital cost approved by DGH, which was proposed by the private contractor in D6 KG Basin gas drilling;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance was not consulted by the Ministry while approving the enhanced capital cost to a private contractor in the D6 KG Basin; and

(d) if so, what action Government proposes to take against officials concerned for overlooking the Ministry of Finance while deciding on such as important issue, which had a direct impact on the Government revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Management Committee and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbans has approved the revised Field Development Plan (FDP) based upon establishment of additional gas reserves and enhanced gas production submitted by the operator of the Block.

The development costs/Capex approved by DGH/Management Committee are broad indicative numbers which are used for techno-economic evaluation. Capital Investment will be approved each year by Management Committee under the annual work programme and budget on realistic basis,

While considering only oil and gas developmental project, Management Committees (MC) examine various technical, economic and financial aspects of such projects. The NPV calculations are carried out to examine the project feasibility under the development option as suggested by the contractor and examined by DGH. These calculations are carried out by applying discount factor by taking into consideration various assumptions and sensitivities of costs, prices and revenues. Since exploration is a high risk game and development cost is phased over a number of years, the NPV calculations provide a benchmark/yardstick to approve the project under the given scenario.